



Farmers collect onion seedlings at a field of Piprul village in Naldanga upazila of Natore. Inset, seedlings being planted at another field of the same village.

PHOTO: STAR



# High price boosts onion farming

## Seedlings inadequate to meet the rising demand in Natore

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

A large number of farmers in Natore are opting for onion cultivation this year due to the high market price of the vegetable used as a common cooking ingredient.

However, many of them are failing in their efforts as supply of seedlings is not that much.

"Farmers have cultivated onion on 4500 hectares of land in Natore this year, which is 950 hectares more than our target. We are hopeful of 63,000 tonnes of yield. In last year, onion was cultivated on 3,380 hectares of land," said Subrata Sarker, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Natore.

"An additional 1,000 hectares would be brought under onion cultivation if seedlings were plenty. Many farmers now want to cultivate onion, especially against the backdrop of its high market price during the last couple of months," he added.

This correspondent recently visited onion fields in different areas of the district and talked to farmers.

"Every year I grow rice but this year I am cultivating onion on two bighas of land due to high prices of the vegetable. After

meeting the family's requirement, I will sell the rest in the market," said Abu Bakkar Siddik of Khajura village in Naldanga upazila of Natore.

"For the first time I am cultivating onion on three bighas of land this year. The cultivation cost is around Tk 20,000 per bigha while I am hopeful of 80 maunds of yield per bigha," said Babu Pramanik, a farmer of Barbaria village in Lalpur upazila.

Several farmers, however, expressed frustration over shortage of onion seedlings.

"I have prepared five bighas of land for onion cultivation but I could plant seedlings on only one bigha. The remaining four bighas are still empty due to shortage of seedlings," said Dulal Fakir, a small farmer of Ramnagar village under Natore Sadar upazila.

"Taking the opportunity of shortage of onion seedlings in the local market, a section of people are selling it at high prices this season," he added.

Ashrafur Islam, a farmer of Taherpur village of Rajshahi, said he sowed onion seeds on one bigha and got 50 maunds of seedlings this season.

The cultivation cost was Tk 25,000 and the seedlings were sold for Tk 50,000, he said.

# Woman's head shaved for dowry

## Husband among four land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was brutally tortured and her head shaved off allegedly by her dowry-greedy husband and in-laws in Dinajpur town on Saturday.

Meanwhile, police arrested four people including the victim's husband on Saturday night after victim Sohagi, 19, filed a case with Dinajpur Sadar Police Station in this connection the same evening.

The arrestees are Sohagi's husband Jony Islam Sumon, 23, of Daptaripara area under Dinajpur municipality, Sumon's father Hafiqul Islam, mother Jabina Begum and sister Sumi Begum.

According to the case statement, Sohagi, daughter of Abu Sayem of Songloni village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila, was married off with Sumon in 2017.

During the marriage, Sohagi's father gave Tk 35,000 to Sumon. But since the marriage, Sumon and his family members had been demanding more money from Sohagi's parents.

Police said as Sumon and his family members could not realise the additional money from Sohagi's parents, they brutally tortured her for an hour and shaved off her head on Saturday afternoon.

Hearing Sohagi's cry for help, neighbours went to the spot and rescued her.

They also arranged Sohagi's shelter at a nearby house and informed the matter to her parents.

Officer in Charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station Mozaffar Hossain said they produced the arrestees before a court yesterday that sent them to jail.

# Woman found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the throat-slit body of a woman from Meduari village in Bhaluka upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased, Hena Akter, 45, was wife of Rafiqul Islam of the village.

Quoting the victim's family members, Officer in Charge of Bhaluka Police Station Mohammad Mainuddin said Hena, mother of three children, went to visit her elder daughter's house in adjacent Kumarkata area on Saturday. After having her meal on that night, Hena went to sleep with her granddaughter Shraboni, 7, and one of her relatives Samola Akter.

But finding Hena missing from her room yesterday morning, family members started searching her.

At one stage, they spotted her throat-slit body inside a jungle nearby the house and informed the police.

Being informed, police recovered Hena's body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile, police detained three people including Samola for their alleged involvement in the murder, the OC added.

No case was lodged as of filing this report around 8:00pm yesterday.

The clock set for countdown to Mujib Borsho, celebrating the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, went dysfunctional on the premises of Bahubal Upazila Parishad in Habiganj on Saturday, much to the dismay of conscious citizens. The upazila officials seemed too reserved to talk about the matter although the device remained in the same condition as of filing this report yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: MINTUDESHWARA

# New school building after 65yrs

## The two-storey school building with modern facilities in Patuakhali Sadar upazila was constructed at a cost of Tk 1 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Students of a 65-year-old school made of corrugated tin sheet, which was vulnerable to collapse anytime, have recently got a new building, thanks to the initiative of Muslim Aid, a UK-based donor organisation.

The two-storey school building with modern facilities was constructed at a cost of Tk 1 crore, said Haripado Bhuiyan, acting headteacher of Kuripaika High School at Kuripaika village in Sadar upazila.

Established in 1955, Kuripaika High School has now 412 students, said Haripado, adding that it is the only one high school in the village.

Teachers and students had been attending classes in the shabby schoolhouse made of tin amid risk of accident for long, he said.

Jannatun Ferdous, a ninth grader at the school, said attending classes in the dilapidated schoolhouse was a nightmare as both students and teachers could not keep their eyes off the ceilings of the classrooms, worrying about possible fatalities due to the rusted tin roofs.

Rainwater entered the classrooms through multiple leakage of the tin roof and they and their books got wet, she said, adding that the new school building is now a great relief for them.

It was very tough to attend classes in the tin-shed schoolhouse during unbearable heat, said Sameer Pine, a Class VIII student of the school.

They informed the authorities concerned about the matter several times but it did not work, said headteacher Haripado.

In June 2016, Muslim Aid demolished the shabby schoolhouse to pave way for a new building there, he said, adding that construction of the two-storey building was completed two months ago.

During the period, the teachers and students attended their classes in a makeshift house near the school compound, situated on one acre of land, said Haripado.

Rabia Sultana, country director of Muslim Aid Bangladesh, on Tuesday inaugurated the new school building, he said, adding that they are now attending classes in the building.

On behalf of Muslim Aid Bangladesh, the new two-storey building was a gift for the teachers and students of the school in the "Mujib Borsho", said Rabia Sultana.



The newly-constructed schoolhouse of Kuripaika High School in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ব্যাংকপুল পুলিশ
অভিযোজকের কার্যালয়
রায়চিত্র এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭
পতেঙ্গা, উত্তরায়
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
"The Public Procurement Act-2006" and "Regulation-2008" এর বিধি মোতাবেক ২০১০-২০১১ অর্থ বছরের জন্য রাহ-৭, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, উত্তরায়ের একটি জনিক সনাক্তের পূর্ব পূর্ব টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রস্তুত করে বাংলাদেশ সরকার/সরকারের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে নিম্নলিখিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।